IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. A method of operating a peripheral device enabled to communicate using a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) protocol, the method comprising:

receiving a SCSI command write/read signal;

receiving a SCSI inquiry signal; and

delaying initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal by the peripheral device for a predetermined time period in response to receipt of the received SCSI command write/read signal and the received SCSI inquiry signal.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

setting a delay timer and entering a delay mode for delaying the peripheral device initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal, the delay mode extending for the predetermined time period.

3. The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

responding to the SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure after passage of the predetermined time period.

4. A tape data storage device comprising:

a tape drive mechanism adapted to accept a removable tape data storage media for storage of data;

at least one buffer memory adapted to temporarily store data to be read to said tape data storage media and to be written from said tape data storage media;

a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) driver; and

a controller device adapted to control said buffer memory, said tape drive mechanism and said small computer system interface driver;

wherein said tape data storage device is adapted to:

receive a SCSI command write/read signal;

receive a SCSI inquiry signal; and

delay initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal by said peripheral device for a predetermined time period in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal.

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5. The tape data storage device as claimed in claim 4, further adapted to:

set a timer and enter a delay mode which delays said data storage device initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal for the predetermined time period.

6. The tape data storage device as claimed in claim 4, further adapted to:

respond to said SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure after passage of the predetermined time period.

7. A driver for operating a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) enabled peripheral device enabled to communicate with at least one other SCSI enabled device according to the SCSI protocol, said driver comprising:

at least one received or adapted to receive a SCSI command write/read signal and a SCSI inquiry signal; and

a delay timer to measure a predetermined time period;

wherein said driver is adapted to cause said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal for said measured predetermined time period in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal.

8. The driver as claimed in claim 7, wherein said driver is adapted to set a delay timer and enter a delay mode, said delay mode extending for said predetermined time period.

9. The driver as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said driver is adapted to delay sending a response to said SCSI inquiry signal when in said delay mode.

10. The driver as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said driver is adapted to respond to said SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure upon passage of the predetermined time period.

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11. A system of computer entities arranged to communicate via a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface), said system comprising:

at least one host computer entity; and

at least one target computer entity;

said system is adapted to:

initiate arbitration by the target entity;

select the host computer; and

to commence data transfer between the host computer and target entity during a bus free period comprising the inquiry period of an inquiry initiated by said host computer to said target entity.

12. A program storage device, readable by a machine, tangibly embody a method of causing a processor to operate a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) protocol driver, the method comprising:

receiving a SCSI command write/read signal;

receiving an SCSI enquiry signal;

setting a delay timer to measure passage of a predetermined time period in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal; and

responding to said SCSI inquiry in response to the measured predetermined time period having passed.

13. A driver for operating a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) enabled peripheral device enabled to communicate with at least one other SCSI enabled device according to the SCSI protocol, said driver comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive a SCSI command write/read signal and to receive a SCSI inquiry signal; and

a delay timer adapted to measure a predetermined time period;

wherein said driver is adapted to cause said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal for said measured predetermined time period in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal.